

504 Westview Dr
Missoula MT 59803
November 4, 2007

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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Ravalli County Commissioners
Ravalli County Courthouse
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Commissioners,

Re: Independent article on Ms. Driscoll's quarry research

I would like to share with you some of my experience as retired auditor for Missoula County, a position I held for twenty-two years. While some of my work dealt with financial issues, my office dealt mostly with economy and efficiency within all County departments. During that time my recommendations saved the County hundreds of thousands of dollars. In many instances my research found results in direct opposition to department heads' assertions. I spent twenty-two years listening to department heads claim they knew more about their affairs than I did. However, I also spent twenty-two years researching and reviewing costs and benefits and provided the County with impartial and unbiased information. Just a couple of questions: If the Road Department employees are working at 100% effort, does reopening the quarry mean that the County needs to expand its work force and what will that cost? If the employees are not working at 100% effort, do you have too many employees?

It is important for you, as watch dogs of the taxpayers' money, to ensure that you receive independent, objective information about costs and benefits of major expenditures. Therefore, rather than accuse Ms. Driscoll of attempting to undermine the head of the Road department, why not do some research yourselves? It's far too easy to criticize the person who says no and too easy to go along to get along.

Please remember that you do represent all the people in Ravalli County and you are responsible for making sound decisions about spending their money.

Sincerely,



Susan Reed